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1856

CHARTER,

CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

OF THE

FRANKLIN LYCEUM,

PROVIDENCE.

IN EXCHANGE
MAR 28 '71

PROVIDENCE:
PRINTED BY A. CRAWFORD GREENE.
1856.

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At a meeting of the Franklin Lyceum, Sept. 17, 1855,

A Report was received from the Committee appointed to revise the By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations. The Report, with the alterations therein recommended, was unanimously adopted, and said Committee were authorized to procure the printing of the By-Laws as revised.

Attest :

CHAS. L. MEAD, *Sec'ry.*

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

The Franklin Lyceum was established in the summer of 1831, by Levi H. Holden, Daniel A. Jackson, and William B. Shove. By the records of 21st April, 1832, the Society then consisted of Messrs. Holden, Jackson, Shove, Charles Cushing, Frank Cushing, Crawford Nightingale and Geronimo Urmmenetta. At the meeting April 28, 1832, the name of "Providence Lyceum" was adopted, but this on the 22d December following, was changed to that which it has since borne, of "Franklin Lyceum." In July, 1833, the Society consisted of thirteen Resident and two Corresponding Members. In April, 1835, after having been previously located, for different periods, in three other places, the first at the house of Mr. Shove, they removed to the DeWitt building in Waterman street, when first in the smaller room and afterwards in the enlarged and spacious hall, they continued until the year 1849. During this period many interesting anniversaries occurred, and other events in the history of the Society, upon which, our limits here, will not allow us to dwell. In 1843, an act of incorporation from the Legislature was obtained, the Society at that time numbering, according to the list compiled with the Constitution and By-Laws then published, thirty-one Resident and twenty-four Corresponding Members, the latter, nearly all of them, having previously been resident members, but had removed from the city. In the fall of 1848, having received a large accession of members, from a Society formed a short time before, and called the "Westminster Lyceum," but which now merged their name and existence in ours, it was decided to remove to a more central location, and on the 1st of January, 1849, the Society held their first meeting in the beautiful hall Westminster St., which they now occupy.

The Society having by their vote authorized this publication of the Charter, Constitution and By-Laws, the Committee deem it not inappropriate to insert a few statistics, concerning the present condition of the Lyceum.

The records of the Society, from its commencement, show a list of four hundred and thirty-six members; which reduced by the hand of death, and the withdrawal of names, leaves at this present, an active membership of about two hundred and eighty persons. The Library from its commencement, has been continually receiving additions to its shelves, and now contains some two thousand volumes; which with the yearly appropriation for the purchase of new publications, constitutes it one of the best Libraries for the practical business man, and general reader, that our city affords. Upon the table of the reading room, are placed a number of the choicest magazines and literary periodicals, as they appear, together with the daily newspapers of our own city, and those of New York and Boston, rendering this an agreeable resort for leisure evenings. Spirited debates are conducted weekly, in the Hall of the Lyceum, proving alike instructive to those who participate in the discussions, and those who listen. A course of popular lectures, from speakers of a high order, have been delivered each season for a number of years past, which have been well received, and sustained by our citizens. Our list of members, though much smaller than it should be, shows a gradual increase from its small beginning; and the interests of the Society in each department, present a degree of advancement, from which we are encouraged to believe the Lyceum will maintain that position in our community, which it has ever held, and which its object should ensure to it.

Perhaps we ought not to conclude these brief remarks without a passing tribute to the memory of those on our list whom the hand of death has removed from us in the course of years. Conspicuous among these are the names of *Allen* and *Burnett*, for their devotion to the interests of the Society, and the excellencies of character, which endeared them to all who knew them. No record of the Society's history would be complete, which did not make mention of their labors, sacrifices and virtues.

CHARTER.

General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, January Session, 1843.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE FRANKLIN LYCEUM.

SECTION I.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly as follows, viz.: That Charles Burnett, Jr , Henry B. Metcalf, William M. Rodman, Walter W. Updike, Benjamin G. Godfrey, James L. King, Edward A. Greene, Robert Manton, John Dean, Charles H. Mason, George Thurber, William B. Shove, Isaac Proud, Daniel W. Vaughn, Richard E. Hamlin, Thomas L. Dunnell, Albert Daily, William Knowles, Augustus Whitman, William Whittaker, Walter C. Simmons, James Chace and Nathan Stevens, all of Providence ; and such others as now are, or hereafter may be, admitted members of this Society, be, and they hereby are, constituted, created and made, a body politic and corporate with perpetual succession, by the name and style of the Franklin Lyceum, with full power to make and ordain, alter and amend such By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations for their government, as they may think necessary, the same not being contrary to the laws of this State : and they are empowered by the aforesaid name to sue and be sued, to plead, and be impleaded, to hold and enjoy any kind of Estate, real or personal, to an amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars, whether

obtained by gift, devise, purchase or otherwise, and to dispose of, and convey the same at pleasure: to have a common seal, which they may alter or change, as they may think proper; and the following shall be their present

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called the Franklin Lyceum.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of the Lyceum shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Cabinet Keeper and Standing Committee, all of whom shall be elected annually by a majority of the members present, at an annual meeting, and always by ballot.

ARTICLE III.

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all regular meetings of the Society, to preserve order, to put questions to vote, and to give the casting vote.

ARTICLE IV.

In the absence of the President, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the Vice President; and in the absence of both, a Chairman shall be elected by a majority of the members present.

ARTICLE V.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a true record of all the proceedings of the Society, to take charge of all papers and documents and generally to perform all the duties appertaining to the office of Secretary.

ARTICLE VI.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all accounts, pay all bills when properly audited, collect all fines, receive all monies belonging to the Society, and to report the state of the Treasury, at every annual meeting, or oftener if required.

ARTICLE VII.

It shall be the duty of the Librarian to take charge of the Library, and enforce such laws as the Society may adopt, concerning its regulation, and to make an annual report of the state of the Library.

ARTICLE VIII.

It shall be the duty of the Cabinet Keeper to preserve order in the arrangement of the Cabinet of mineral, and other collections, and to make an annual report of the state of the Cabinet.

ARTICLE IX.

The Standing Committee shall consist of three members, whose duty it shall be to have the care of all property, not assigned to any other custody; to propound persons for admission, to examine, audit, and certify all accounts against the Society, before they are paid; and to report annually.

ARTICLE X.

The annual meeting of the Society shall take place on the first Monday evening in January, when an election of officers shall be made.

SECTION II.

The foregoing act and everything therein contained, shall be forever hereafter subject to all acts of the General Assembly, in amendment or repeal thereof, or in any wise affecting the same.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. Members of this Lyceum shall be termed Resident Members, being such as pay full taxes; Corresponding Members, or such as reside at a distance from the city of Providence; Honorary Members, being admitted such in consequence of their Literary or Scientific attainments; and Fine Members, or such as pay one-half the tax assessed upon Resident Members.

Sec. 2. All candidates for resident membership, shall be propounded by the Standing Committee, or in their absence by the Chair, at a regular meeting, at least one week before admission; and the vote upon such admission shall be taken by ballot, when requested by any member.

Sec. 3. All propositions for resident membership shall be in writing, with the name of the person proposing the same, and three other persons as referees, and no such candidate shall become a member against whom five ballots may be cast, nor until he has subscribed to the Constitution, and paid two dollars into the Treasury.

Sec. 4. A Resident member, on removing from the city, or its vicinity, with the intention of residing abroad, by giving notice of his intention to the Secretary, and by the payment of his arrears to the Treasurer, may become a corresponding member; and a corresponding member on removing to the city or its vicinity, with the intention of residing therein, may become a resident member, by payment of

the initiation fee, and by subscribing to the Constitution: and if such corresponding member, shall have been a resident member, he may resume his resident membership without payment of the initiation fee, or again signing the Constitution, by giving notice to the Secretary of his intention thereof, within six months of his return, but in such case the assessment of taxes shall commence with his return.

Sec. 5. None but resident members shall be entitled to vote, be eligible to any office in the Lyceum, have the use of the Library or apparatus, be subject to taxation, or have any ownership in any property belonging to the Lyceum; or be furnished with free tickets for any public lectures, unless by a special vote of the Society.

Sec. 6. Any member shall be entitled to dismission, by requesting it in writing, through the Secretary, and producing a certificate from the Treasurer of payment of all dues to the Lyceum.

Sec. 7. Any member ceasing to be a resident member, and the death, dismission, or expulsion of a member, thereby relinquishes, terminates, and extinguishes all ownership, and interests of himself, or of any person in his behalf, in and to any property, belonging to the Lyceum, or to him as a member thereof.

Sec. 8. Any member shall be liable to expulsion or dismission for disorderly or immoral conduct, or for neglecting for one year, to pay his proportion of assessments or taxation. Provided always that a motion to expel or dismiss a member, shall be made at a regular meeting two weeks previous to taking a vote thereon; and no member shall be expelled or dismissed, except by the votes of three-fourths of the members present, at a regular meeting, due notice having been given to the delinquent of the motion pending, and it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to report such delinquencies.

Sec. 9. Any person who shall have been admitted a resident member, and shall neglect to pay the admission fee, and subscribe to the Constitution within three months from the time of his admission, shall be considered ineligible to membership, unless again propounded and elected.

ARTICLE II.

MEETINGS.

Section 1. The Lyceum shall be convened weekly at their room at such time as may be appointed; excepting during the interval for

which the Society may adjourn in the warm season: and every alteration of the time of meeting shall be recorded one week before it takes effect.

Sec. 2. Eight members shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 3. A special meeting shall be called by the President at any time at the request of eight members: and the Secretary shall notify the members of such meeting.

Sec. 4. At every meeting of the Lyceum, the proceedings of the meeting next previous, shall be read, before the transaction of any other business.

Sec. 5. At the annual meeting, there shall be an Editor and Question Committee elected in addition to the officers named in the Charter.

ARTICLE III.

EXERCISES.

Section 1. The prominent exercises of the Lyceum shall be Lectures, Debates, Declamations and a paper.

Sec. 2. On the first Monday evening in each month, there may be a Lecture; and debates on the other evenings; and no person not at member, shall be allowed to lecture, except by a vote of the Lyceum.

Sec. 3. There shall be an Anniversary celebration of the Lyceum, during the first week in January, of every year, when there may be an Oration and Poem—the Orator and Poet to be elected by the Society, from among its members.

ARTICLE IV.

MANNER OF BALLOTING.

Section 1. In all elections requiring a ballot, three tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, who shall take their seats at the table; and the Secretary shall call the roll; and each member, as his name is called shall deposit his ballot in a box placed on the table; and the names of those voting shall be checked by the Secretary.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS.

Section 1. *President.*—In addition to the duties prescribed in Article III, of the Constitution, it shall be the duty of the presiding of-

ficer to supply vacancies in the offices of the Lyceum, until the same are otherwise supplied; to state the business on record to be transacted; to sign certificates of membership; to appoint all committees unless otherwise ordered by the Society; and he may at any time supply his place in the chair during debate, but shall resume the same, at the request of three members.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to make and preserve a record of all donations and loans, with the names of the donors and lenders, and such information relating to donations and loans as the Lyceum may deem proper; to read the record of the preceding meeting; to notify candidates of their admission—to give certificates of membership under the seal of the Lyceum: and at all times to keep distinct and correct lists of the several classes of members of the Lyceum in alphabetical order. He shall also keep and preserve at all times a correct copy of the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the Lyceum, together with such alterations therein and additions thereto as may from time to time be made. It shall also be the duty of the Secretary to give to all the regularly appointed disputants written notice of their appointment, at least four days previous to the evening for debate, and also to notify the members of all Committees of their appointment and the object of such appointments.

ARTICLE VI.

TAXATION.

The expenses of the Lyceum shall be defrayed by an equal tax on each resident member, not exceeding the sum of four dollars per annum; and no tax shall be collected unless assessed by a vote of the Lyceum; and the Secretary at the time of such assessment, and the Treasurer who shall collect a tax, when so assessed, shall be exempt from the payment of that tax; and the Treasurer may, at any time, employ assistance in collecting said taxes, the assistance so rendered to be paid for from the Treasury.

ARTICE VII.

LIBRARY.

Section 1. There shall be elected at each annual meeting, a Committee of six, who, together with the Librarian, shall constitute the Library Committee for the year ensuing; and such Library Com-

mittee shall have the sole control and regulation of the Library, and direct the Librarian in the discharge of his duties, and expend such appropriations as may from time to time be made by the Lyceum for the Library, and any four shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business that may properly devolve upon such Committee.

Sec. 2. The Lyceum shall annually appropriate on the first Monday evening on each year, a specific sum for the benefit of the Library, to be expended under the direction of the Library Committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

CABINET AND DEPARTMENTS.

Section 1. The Cabinet and Scientific collections shall be divided nto the following departments, viz.:

1. Geology and Mineralogy.
2. Botany and Conchology.
3. History, and Antiquities.
4. Mechanics, and Useful Arts.
5. Fine Arts.
6. Phrenology, and Mesmerism.
7. Natural Philosophy and Chemistry.

Each department shall be placed under the charge of a distinct Committee, to be appointed by the President and Cabinet Keeper, whose duty it shall be to report to the Cabinet Keeper, the state of their respective departments, at least two weeks previous to the annual meeting.

Sec. 2. All specimens and articles of every kind whatever deposited in the Cabinet, or either of its departments, shall belong to the Lyceum, unless otherwise specified at the time of the deposit.

ARTICLE IX.

ALTERATION OF LAWS.

Section 1. No application shall be made to the General Assembly for any alteration, or amendment of the Charter of this Lyceum, without a motion to make such alteration, or amendment shall have been made, at a regular meeting, and recorded on the journal at least two weeks previous to taking the vote thereon; nor unless it receives the votes of three-fourths of all the members present.

Sec. 2. No By-Law shall be enacted, amended, or repealed, unless on motion made and recorded one week; nor unless two-thirds o those present, vote in favor of such motion.

Sec. 3. Any Rule or Regulation may be enacted, amended, or re pealed by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

ARTICLE X.

REPEAL OF FORMER BY-LAWS.

All By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the Lyceum inconsistent with the a-foregoing By-Laws, are hereby repealed.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

FIRST.

The following shall be the order of exercises at all regular meetings of the Lyceum, viz.:

1. The procedings of the previous meeting shall be read, and mistakes, if any, corrected.
2. Declamation.
3. Paper.
4. Declamation.
5. Debate or Lecture.

SECOND.

The ayes and noes shall be entered on the journal at the request of any three members.

THIRD.

When two or more members rise at once, the presiding officer shall name the one to speak first.

FOURTH.

Any member on being called to order, shall immediately sit down, unless permitted by the President to explain, and the Lyceum shall, if appealed to, decide on the case: but without debate.

FIFTH.

Every member present, when a question is put, shall give his vote, unless excused by the Lyceum.

SIXTH.

When a motion has been made, and carried, in the affirmative, or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority, to move for a reconsideration of the same.

SEVENTH.

No motion shall be debated or put, unless the same shall have been seconded: when seconded, it shall be stated by the President before debate, and shall be reduced to writing, at the request of the President, or any member.

EIGHTH.

No member shall be allowed to speak on any business before the Society more than ten minutes at a time, nor more than twice upon the same question during an evening, unless by unanimous consent. When the time of any member speaking shall have expired, notice thereof shall be given him by the chair.

NINTH.

It shall be the duty of the Question Committee to select and report to the Lyceum at each regular meeting, a question for discussion: which shall be the question for debate at the next regular meeting.

TENTH.

In debating, four disputants, who shall be appointed by the President, shall open each question in the following order: first in the affirmative, and second in the negative: after the question has been opened, any member may have the liberty of making such remarks in relation to it, as he may think proper, and after discussion, the question shall be decided by a vote of the Lyceum.

ELEVENTH.

A motion to adjourn, shall always be in order, and shall be decided without debate; but a motion to adjourn cannot be repeated until some other business has intervened.

TWELFTH.

When any motion whatever or other matter shall have been laid upon the table, the same shall not be taken up until the next meeting, unless distinctly stated in the motion to lay on the table, that it is laid on the table for a specific purpose.

THIRTEENTH.

It shall require a majority of two-thirds of the members voting, to suspend a rule.

ARTICLE

ON THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Section 1. This Constitution shall go into operation on the meeting (of the Lyceum) next after its adoption.

Sec. 2. All existing Constitutions, laws, rules or regulations of the Lyceum, which are inconsistent with this present Charter, Constitution and By-Laws, are hereby repealed: provided however, that all officers and committes already elected or appointed, shall continue in the discharge of their duties, to such offices as this Constitution provides.

LIST OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SOCIETY, WITH THE TIME THEY SEVERALLY CAME INTO OFFICE.

PRESIDENT.	VICE PRESIDENT.	SECRETARY.	TREASURER.
1831 No records preserved.	1832 George P. Wetmore.	1832 William B. Shove,	1832 Geronimo Urmeneta.
1832 Levi H. Holden,*	S. N. Richmond, Jr.,	1833 Robert C. Bartlett,	S. N. Richmond, Jr.,
Daniel W. Vaughan,	1833 Albert Smith.	Daniel W. Vaughan,	1833 S. N. Richmond, Jr.
1833 William B. Shove,	Levi H. Holden,	Levi H. Holden,	Richard E. Hamlin.
Crawford Nightingale,	Frank Cushing,	William W. Bishop,	1834 Richard E. Hamlin,
1834 Thomas L. Dunnell,	1834 Daniel W. Vaughan,	1834 Henry C. Whitaker,	and except Wm. C.
William M. Rodman,	Henry C. Whitaker,	William M. Rodman,	Allen one quarter, until
1835 William M. Rodman,	Thomas L. Dunnell,	William C. Allen,	1837 Daniel W. Vaughan,
William C. Allen,	1835 Daniel W. Vaughan,	1835 William E. Hamlin.	1838 Henry Lippitt,
1836 William C. Allen,	1836 Henry C. Whitaker,	Henry C. Whitaker,	1840 Edward A. Greene,
Henry C. Whitaker,	Daniel W. Vaughan,	1836 William M. Rodman,	1842 Albert Dailey,
Thomas L. Dunnell,	Joseph S. Pitman,	William E. Hamlin,	1845 Walter W. Updike,
1837 William C. Allen,	1837 William M. Rodman,	Daniel W. Vaughan,	1849 Lyman B. Frieze,
1838 Henry C. Whitaker,	1838 William C. Allen,	1837 Hosea Ballou, Jr.,	Thomas A. Doyle,
1839 William C. Allen,	1839 William Knowles,	1838 Henry T. Beckwith,	1850 Thomas A. Doyle,
1840 William Knowles,	1840 Albert Dailey	1839 Richard E. Hamlin,	1851 Charles F. Philip,
1841 Albert Dailey,	1841 Charles Burnett, Jr.,	1840 Isaac Proud,	1852 Cyrus G. Dyer,
1842 Richard E. Hamlin,	1842 Edward A. Greene,	John Dean.	1853 A. L. Calder,
1843 Charles Burnett, Jr.,	1843 Henry B. Metcalf,	1841 Augustus Whitman,	1854 A. L. Calder.
1844 Thomas L. Dunnell,	1844 Charles H. Mason,	1842 Henry B. Metcalf,	1855 Lucius C. Ashley.
1845 Albert Dailey,	1845 Edward N. Davis,	1843 William C. Jenckins,	1856 Henry J. Steere.
1847 Henry T. Beckwith,	1846 Henry T. Beckwith,	1844 Edward A. Greene,	
1849 Albert Harkness,	1847 Richard E. Hamlin,	1845 Franklin Chace,	
1850 Henry Howard,	1848 Albert Harkness,	1846 Samuel A. Bowler,	
1851 Franklin J. Dickman,	1849 Henry Howard,	Mark Graves,	
1852 Jacob H. Martin.	1850 Franklin J. Dickman,	1847 Nathan Stevens,	
1853 William Sprague, 2d,	1851 Allen Greene,	1848 Lyman B. Frieze,	
1854 Thomas A. Doyle,	1852 William Sprague, 2d,	1849 Samuel B, Tobey, Jr.,	
William G. Weeden,	1853 Cyrus G. Dyer,	1850 Cyrus G. Dyer,	
1855 Jerome B. Kimball,	1854 George J. Wilson,	1851 C. J. Peckham,	
1856 Charles F. Brownell.	1855 F. N. Seabury,	1852 George W. Monro,	
	1856 Israel G. Bixby.	1853 Thomas J. Thurber,	
		1854 Fayette P. Brown,	
		1855 Charles L. Mead,	
		1856 Benjamin F. Randall.	

* Officers were elected quarterly until 1837.

OFFICERS

OF THE

FRANKLIN LYCEUM,

ELECTED JANUARY, 1856.

PRESIDENT.

CHARLES F. BROWNELL.

VICE PRESIDENT.

ISRAEL G. BIXBY.

SECRETARY.

BENJAMIN F. RANDALL.

TREASURER.

HENRY J. STEERE.

LIBRARIAN.

WILLIAM H. GREEN.

CABINET KEEPER.

WILLIAM Y. POTTER.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

LUCIUS C. ASHLEY, HENRY A. MANCHESTER,
AMOS C. HAWES.

EDITOR.

WILLIAM G. WEEDEN.

QUESTION COMMITTEE.

FRANCIS COLWELL, JR., JOHN F. TOBEY, GEO. F. KILTON.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

J. B. KIMBALL, C. L. MEAD, R. P. EVERETT, I. G. BIXBY,
F. N. SEABURY, J. G. WHITEHOUSE.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
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